Closure of Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

1844. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Postal Divisions Head Post Offices and 200 Sub Post Offices in Andhra Circle have been earmarked to be abolished;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some post offices have been closed down resulting in the retrenchment of about 900 Extra Departmental staff; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Shahsabgutta sub post office in Mahaboslnagar town in Andhra Pradesh has already been closed down and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Reviews have indicated that 3 postal divisions, 37 head post offices and 25 sub post offices in Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle do not satisfy the prescribed establishment| financial standards. However, no final decision has been taken in regard to these units.

(b) No, Sir. Extra Departmental employees who were surplus to immediate requirements have since been re-employed to a substantial extent.

(c) Yes, Sir. The post office was discontinued w.e.f. 30.6.86 and the concerned staff attached to other post offices in town as per requirements. This step was taken because the post office in question was found to be not financially self-supporting as required in the ease of urban post offices.

Amount due from Kerala Staff Trans-Port Corporation

1845. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money Kerala State Transport Corporation owes to various oil corporations as on date and since when the amount is due;

(b) what are the reasons for the accumulation of these huge dues;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to collect these dues from the corporation;

(d) whether the credit facility to the Corporation has since been suspended; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the names of the other State Transport Corporations which owe money to oil corporations indicating the amount of dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (e) Three Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) are marketing petroleum products to various clients including State Transport Corporations. The details of outstanding payments due from Kerala State Transport Corporation (KSTC) and other State Transport Corporations are given in Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

Kerala State Transport Corporation is reported to have been facing financial problems for the past few years due to which they have not adhered to the payment schedule for the supplies made by IOC and HPCL. Both IOC